

DEMOLITION DRIVE AT JAHUR MARKET AL seeks removal of magistrates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cig

Leaders of Chittagong Awami League and its associate organisations at a rally yesterday demanded removal of the two magistrates who led the mobile court that allegedly dismantled "sculptures of three leaders" at Jahur Hawkers' Market in the port city on Wednesday.

The rally, held in front of the market, was organised by Jahur Hawkers' Market Traders' Association.

Khoshed Alam Sujan, vice president of Chittagong city unit AL, alleged that Chittagong City Corporation wanted to set up three shops in the area. So it "dismantled" the under-construction sculptures of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, former CCC mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and late Awami League leader Jahur Ahmed Chowdhury, he alleged.

"The market is not owned by the CCC," he claimed. "Why would the traders need permission to build a sculpture there? They were building the sculpture out of their love for Bangabandhu," he said.

"We want them [the magistrates] to be stand released..." he added.

Pointing to the CCC mayor, Sujan said a person is trying to build shops where the sculptures were being built. "The sculptures of the three leaders will be rebuilt there and we will volunteer..."

On the other hand, the magistrates said a flat slab was being built over a drain along with a wall beside it at the entrance of the market. And, there were "no under-construction sculptures" when they were conducting the drive, they added.

"They [traders] just wanted to grab the drain and its



Teachers of MPO-listed institutions continue their sit-in in front of Jatiya Press Club for the second consecutive day yesterday, demanding nationalisation of private educational institutions. The teachers, under the banner of Besharkari Shikkha Jatiyakaran Liaison Forum, also threatened to go on a hunger strike if their demand is not met by tomorrow. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

No bar on recruitment tests at three state-run banks

Bangladesh Bank can conduct the exams now, says lawyer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday cleared the way for the authorities concerned to hold the tests for recruiting senior officers, officers and cash officers in three state-run banks -- Sonali, Rupali and Janata.

Chamber Judge of the SC's Appellate Division Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain stayed for six weeks a High Court order that halted the examinations scheduled for today.

He ruled that the recruitment procedures of the candidates as per the 2016 circulars will not be affected by this order. Justice Hossain delivered the order following a petition filed by Bangladesh Bank.

Following the order, the Bangladesh Bank can take initiatives to conduct recruitment tests for all eight banks including Sonali, Rupali and Janata banks today, Barrister Munirujjaman, a lawyer for Bangladesh Bank, told reporters.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam appeared for the central bank.

Following a writ petition, the HC on January 7 stayed the recruitment tests.

It also issued a rule asking the respondents to explain within four weeks why they should not be directed to hold the exams as per the 2016 circulars, which were separately issued by the BB, before holding the recruitment tests based on the 2017 circular.

Prosecute police members who break the law

Demands ASK, saying withdrawal is not enough

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) yesterday demanded prosecution of the police members who had been breaking the law.

Expressing grave concern and condemnation over such reckless behaviour by some of the law enforcers, the legal aid and human rights organisation in a press release said only withdrawing the accused members from their duties is inadequate and setting a negative example in the society.

Quoting media reports, the ASK said in the most recent incident, on January 9, the brother of a schoolgirl was locked up and beaten up by police members at Khairabad Baintola police outpost in Botiaghata of Khulna.

Besides, an incident of a forced marriage and torture on a woman by an additional

police commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) also surfaced over the last several days.

The incident in Khulna took place when the brother of the girl went to the outpost to complain about his sister being subjected to regular harassment by its police members on her way to school.

The members of the outpost were withdrawn and her brother was released after locals besieged the police outpost.

Although the accused members of the law enforcers including DMP's Additional Commissioner Mizanur Rahman were withdrawn, such serious allegations against the protectors of the law are deplorable and unacceptable. And the accused therefore have to be tried under the law of the land, the ASK release read.

Abuzz with teachers' agitation

New alliance vows to take to streets for nationalisation; madrasa teachers' protest enters third day with 74 more falling ill; MPO-listed institutions threaten hunger strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The new academic session began amid continuous street agitations of teachers.

After hunger strikes enforced by the assistant primary and non-MPO teachers and an ongoing one by ebtedai madrasa teachers, a newly formed alliance of pro-government teachers and employees announced a series of programmes demanding "nationalisation of the education system".

Shadhinota Shikkhak Karmachari Federation, the biggest platform of 16 organisations of teachers and employees, yesterday said they will hold various programmes including campaigns, human chains, and submit memorandums to press home their demand.

At a press conference in the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday, the leaders of the federation said they will not hold any programme in February because of the SSC examinations, which will begin on February 1.

Shahjahan Alam Saju, chief coordinator of the alliance, said apart from nationalisation of the education system, they want Baishakh and festival allowances.

Later talking to The Daily Star, he said, "What we meant by nationalisation is that the government will take responsibility of the entire education system, the way it does with the primary education."

In Bangladesh, 98 percent secondary and higher secondary educational institutions are privately managed and there are numerous problems like influence of school managing committees, standard of

education, lack of quality teachers and their poor salaries, he said.

"If we want an end of it, there is no alternative to nationalising the system," said Shahjahan, also the general secretary of Swadhinota Shikkhak Parishad.

"Once nationalised, the government will gain income and become the owner of assets of the educational institutions. In return, the government will give salaries of all the teachers," he said.

It will eventually help stop the teachers getting involved in private tuitions or coaching, he added.

The teachers and employees of the



Participants of Sylhet regional round are busy cooking at the fifth session of "Rupchanda-The Daily Star Super Chef-2018" at Sonar Bangla centre in the city yesterday. Out of 67 contestants, Ashim Sharma and Ripna Begum emerged victorious and made it to the central round to be held in Dhaka. PHOTO: STAR

Two from Sylhet region make it to central round

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Sylhet regional round of the fifth session of "Rupchanda-The Daily Star Super Chef-2018" was held in the city yesterday, selecting two winners for the competition's final round to be held in Dhaka.

The two winners -- Ashim Sharma and Ripna Begum -- secured their tickets to Dhaka after defeating a pool of candidates.

Earlier in the day, all 67 participants took part in the regional competition held in Sylhet city's Sonar Bangla centre. The regional competition was divided into two sessions.

All the candidates took part in the first session. After being scrutinised, 28 got cooking cards for the second session.

Asma Fatema, who was chosen



PROVIDING LEGAL AID SCLAC seeks list of prisoners aged more than 75

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court Legal Aid Committee (SCLAC) has sought for the list of and the details about the prisoners aged more than 75 years from the authorities of five jails including Dhaka Central Jail.

The other four jails are Kashimpur-1, 2, 3 and 4.

The SCLAC yesterday sent a letter to the senior superintendents of the jails, asking them to provide relevant updated information about the aged prisoners (under trial or convicts) so that it (SCLAC) can provide legal aid to them.

In the letter, the SCLAC said it has learnt from various sources that there are old persons aged more than 75 years in some jails in different cases.

The SCLAC has been working for ensuring legal aid service at the Supreme Court. It believes that the jail authorities' cooperation in establishing legal aid service will continue, Ripon Paul Sku, coordinator of SCLAC, told The Daily Star citing the letter.

BNP didn't learn from 1/11 changeover

Says Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said his party's arch-rival BNP did not take lesson from the 1/11 political changeover in 2007.

Quader said, "We took lesson from the 1/11 changeover, and we fear the recurrence of such situation, as BNP didn't take lesson from it."

He was talking to reporters at the AL President Sheikh Hasina's Dhanmondi office in the capital after a secretary-level meeting of the party.

BNP is well-informed about its consequence in the upcoming general election; therefore, the party is trying to fish in the troubled waters through hatching conspiracies, said Quader.

"We will not allow BNP to meet its evil desire," said Quader, also road transport and bridges minister.

About mayoral candidate for Dhaka North City Corporation by



polls, Quader said the party's nomination board will select the mayoral candidate through a meeting to be held on January 16.

Responding to a query about the party's eagerness in selecting candidates from businessmen, the AL leader said, "It's a political strategy. Why? Can't a politician run a business?"

In this regard, he said, his party has conducted several surveys, and whoever stays ahead in the surveys will get an AL ticket to vie in the DNCC mayoral race.

"Before the decision of nomination board of the party, none will be considered as Awami League candidate."

About the organisational activities at the grassroots, Quader said several teams have been formed to further strengthen organisational activities of the party at the district and upazila levels.

AUG 21 GRENADE ATTACK Defence counsel places arguments for second day

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A defence counsel for Munshi Mohibullah alias Ovi yesterday for the second day continued placing his closing arguments in connection with the cases filed over the August 21 grenade attack.

Ovi is a Huji leader and also a brother of another Huji leader Mufti Abdul Hannan.

Saifur Rashid Sabuj, counsel for Ovi placed his arguments for over two hours before the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 of Dhaka.

As Saifur could not complete his arguments, Judge Shahed Nuruddin adjourned the hearing and fixed January 15, 16 and 17 for the next hearing. Saifur will place his remaining arguments then.

During yesterday's arguments, Saifur said four accused in their confessional statements mentioned his client's name. They are Sharif Shahedul Alam Bipul, Rafiqul Islam Sabuj, Abul Kalam Azad Bulbul and Jahangir Alom Badar.

But Saifur read out the confessional statements of Bipul and Badar and pointed out contradictions in the statements.

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